HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 5:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Prelude: When Hope Came Down	
Welcome	
Lighting of the Christ Candle	
*Opening Carol 121	O Come, All Ye Faithful!
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 683)Doug Gaerte Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah	
Ministry in Music: Unto Us	
Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1012)Kathie Hilsher The Angel Gabriel Comes to the Virgin Mary	
*Carol 136 O Little Town of Bethlehem	
Scripture Reading:	Matthew 1:18-25 (page 955)Margarita Cooley The Angel Appears to Joseph
Ministry in Music: Mary, Did You Know?Buddy Greene & Mark Lowry	
	Luke 2:1-20 (page 1014)Jane Buteyn Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus
*Carol 117 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
Christmas Eve Offering & Prayer	
Offertory: Light of the World	
Children's Story	Pastor Laurie Smalley
*Songs of Adoration	Christ is Come O Holy Night

Meditation:

Pastor Wes Oden

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The central candle of the Advent wreath represents Christ, the light of the world. During the service, the light from the Christ Candle has been carried to candles along the center aisle. During the singing of *Silent Night*, those who are nearest the center aisle are asked to light their candle from the aisle candles.

Then all those who worship will pass the light, holding the lit candles upright and tilting the unlit candle to receive the flame. Ushers will bring the light from the Christ Candle to the balcony. When all the candles are lit, we will stand for prayer and ask God to help us be Christ's light in the world. Then we will join

together in singing *Joy to the World*. The texts of *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World* can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Benediction

Ringing of the Bells

Postlude

Acolytes: Lydia and Micah Christensen

Music Ministry Team:
Alana Brubaker, Kristen Sanasith, vocals;
Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano;
Naomi Christensen, violin; Noah McNeill, drums

As you leave, please extinguish your candle and place it in the proper receptacle in the foyer, but let the light of Christ's love burn on in your heart.

> May God bless you with a very merry Christmas. Our Worship Service on December 31 will begin at 10am. There will be no Sunday School or evening service on December 31.



Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

